

"Courtview"  
(Foster-Rogers House)  
Florence, Ala.  
Lauderdale Co.

ALA  
HABS No. ~~16~~-329.  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

Project <sup>ALA</sup> #16-329  
"COURTVIEW", FOSTER-ROGERS HOME  
At the head of Court Street  
Florence, Alabama

Today:

All the old decorations of the house have been retained and changes made only where necessary, or where they were considered to be improvements.

The grounds are beautifully kept, a sort of silent acknowledgement of the pride and care of the present owners for their historic home.

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Source of Material:

Peter A. Brannon, Curator of the Department of  
Archives and History of the State of Alabama,  
Montgomery, Ala.

Eugene Knight, Architect, Birmingham, Alabama.

*Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.*

ALA  
Project #18-329  
"COURTVIEW", FOSTER-ROGERS HOME  
At the head of Court Street  
Florence, Alabama

HISTORICAL DATA:

Built: 1848-1855.

Architect or builder: George Washington Foster.

Ownership:

George Washington Foster, original owner.  
George Washington Foster Estate.  
George B. McDonald.  
Sterling Foster.  
Tom Reeder.  
Emmett O'Neal.  
Thomas Rogers. Bought home in 1922.

Present Owner and Occupant: Thomas Rogers and family.

Colonel George Washington Foster:

A pioneer citizen of Florence. Colonel Foster persuaded the State Legislature to pass a bill forcing the City of Florence to close Court Street, the busiest thoroughfare, and allow him to erect a mansion there. He purchased the lot for \$500.00.

When "Courtview" was completed by Colonel Foster, it was a model of efficiency for those days. By means of a reservoir on the third floor, the house was supplied with hot and cold running water.

"Courtview" was the scene of many delightful entertainments given by the hospitable owners during the years just prior to the War Between the States. It was a gathering place for the prominent men and beautiful women of that day.

Civil War Period:

During the several years of The War Between the States, the Foster's home was held first by the Union soldiers and then by the Confederate troops.

"COURTVIEW"  
Foster-Rogers Home  
Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

"Courtview" has a very good building location at the head of the main street of Florence. It presents a unique use of coupled Ionic columns in its central portico. The use of the cheneaux, if original, is interesting, as this was not made use of during the Greek Revival period in this section of the South. The entablature is of rather novel appearance, making use of a wide frieze.

Source of Material:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Administrator, HABS.  
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

(Revised at HABS Headquarters  
Feb. 7, 1936 - H.C.F.)  
(Original paper in field notebook).

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